

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

43-0-57-0

Hanover

HNS.240

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 1222 Main Street

Historic Name: Nahum and Nancy Keene
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family
Residential
Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1853

Source: White's History, Plan No. 4, Page 71

Style/Form: GreekRevival/Cape

Architect/Builder: Benjamin W. Josselyn

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Asbestos Clapboard/Aluminum

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Additions,
Vinyl windows, asbestos siding

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.87 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares outside of one of its commercial centers in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The one-and-a-half story Cape style house has a tall and wide, asphalt shingled gable roof which gradually drops down across the length of the buildings as it runs over several later additions to the north gable-end of the house. The house sits sideways on the lot with its south gable-end facing the street and its front entrance to the east. It is sided in asbestos clapboard style siding with aluminum wrapped trim. The gable-end has wide projecting eaves with deep soffits. The same aluminum clad trim extends in narrow returns around the corners of the gable-end and runs along the eaves of the gable facades. A long, slightly lower one-story gable roofed addition extends out from the north gable-end of the house. At this addition's far northern end is a second, lower gable-roofed addition. The house has retained a mix of original wood and vinyl clad six-over-six double hung windows. Two narrow brick chimneys with corbeled tops are visible along the roof ridge - one in the center of the original house and one in the center of the first addition to the north façade.

The house faces east towards the driveway that runs along the east property line. The front façade is symmetrical with two windows to either side of the front entry. Each of the windows on the east and south facades is also surrounded by aluminum shutters which have been installed on the siding to either side of the window frames. At the center of the original Cape's east façade is the front door, which is set into a heavy aluminum clad frame and surrounded by long, five-pane sidelights. The door itself is a solid wood door that opens onto a single granite step leading into the yard. The addition to the north façade is set back from the northeast corner of the building and has the same trim and detailing. Two solid, vertical wood board doors are located at the center of its east façade with double hung windows located between and to either side. The rest of the façade is blank and the last addition to the north has a solid sliding wood garage door over the large opening in its east façade.

The south gable-end faces the street and has a small rectangular vent at the top of the pediment over two windows in the gable-end and three across the first floor of the building. In the southwest corner of the façade, a small flat roofed addition is tucked in below the gable-end roof. The addition extends approximately half way along the west façade of the original Cape and is only a little wider than the solid wood door located on its south façade, which is flush with the south façade of the gable-end. At the center of the west façade, a door in the first addition leads to an open wood deck which appears to run the length of the addition and has wide, wood board railings and a small staircase leading into the yard.

The asphalt-paved driveway runs along the length of the east façade of the house to a parking area in front of the garage. Beyond the house, an unpaved road extends from the end of the driveway into the woods at the north of the site. The house sits on a relatively flat lot and is surrounded on its east and south facades with bushes and foundation plantings. Taller bushes and mature trees are located along the street to the south. An open grass lawn extends along both the east and west facades of the house and is bordered by mature trees and dense vegetation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Continuation sheet 3

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Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, the present house was built in 1853 by Benjamin W. Josselyn for Nahum Keene and has been in the same family since its construction. The house is located on the site of an older house which Keene had purchased in 1832-1833. At that time, it was known as the Christopher Phillips place. Owing to the condition of this house, Keene only occupied the house for about twenty or twenty-one years before he replaced it with a new structure. According to White and local historian Allan Clemons, the front portion of the original house was torn down and the new house was built out of the usable lumber from the original house by attaching it to an older kitchen. White also noted that new doors were made at that time by Silas Dunham. White had dated the original house to 1717 when it was owned by Samuel Dawes. Local historian Allan Clemons, whose great-great grandfather was the Nahum Keene who purchased the property in the 1830s, concurs with White's statement on the origins of the original house. According to Clemons, family history states that the original building was constructed by Samuel Dawes and a Phillips family ancestor who took ownership of the building in 1717, but a stone in the kitchen chimney base has a carved date of 1711 in it. The Philips family lived in the house until the early 1800s.

The 1830 Smith Plan shows the home of "E." or "C. Phillips" as being in that area, confirming White's description of the previous owner. Christopher Phillips (1752-1806) was born in Pembroke and is listed there in the 1800 U.S. Census. There is no record of his sale of the house to Nahum Keene (also Keen), who appears regularly in both Pembroke and Hanson records throughout the nineteenth century. Nahum Keene (1808-1896) was born in Pembroke to Ebenezer Bourne Keene and Mehitable Phillips and married Nancy Maria Chase (1814-1883) of Walpole in 1832. According to Allan Clemons, the Philips family had moved out of the house in the early 1800s and had rented it to S. Cox until 1832, when it was turned over to Nahum through his mother, Mehitable Philips Keene. White states the newlyweds moved directly into the Main Street property where they remained for the rest of their lives. Nahum is listed as a farmer in state and federal census records from the 1850s through the 1880s, and he and Nancy had thirteen children including Rebecca, William, Ellen, Caroline, Francis, Frederic, Ella, Walter, and Charlotte Lydia.

"N. Keen" appears on the 1856 Walling Map, by then living in the enlarged and rebuilt house constructed by Benjamin Josselyn (1826-1908). Benjamin Josselyn was born in Pembroke and is listed as a carpenter living in Hanson on the 1850 U.S. Census. By the 1855 state Census, he had married wife Lucy and as of the 1870 U.S. Census was working as a housewright. Benjamin is known to have constructed Primary School #1 (1077 East Washington Street) for the town using a gable-end cottage design which is similar to 1222 Main Street and built numerous other homes in Hanson and Pembroke throughout this period. In 1886, Nahum transferred the house to his youngest child, Charlotte Lydia Keene (1859-1940)¹, who is referenced in the nineteenth century census information and White's *History* by her middle name, Lydia. Nahum's sale of the property included the caveat that he would continue to live in and "improve" half of the existing house for the rest of his life. Charlotte never married and had lived in and maintained the house for her parents since the 1880 U.S. Census. Miss Lydia Keene was the owner of the house in White's time and according to his *History*, had removed the steam heat installed by Nahum and returned to using stoves to heat the house in 1897.

In the 1910 U.S. Census, Charlotte is listed as living with her nephew, Walter Harlow Keene (1881-1954), his wife, Emily, and their daughter Emily. Walter was the son of Charlotte's brother, Walter O. Keene and Lucy Crocker, and had married Emily E. Roberts in 1904. Walter's family is listed as living with Charlotte in 1910 while he worked as a cutter at the shoe factory. Walter H. went on to become a waterworks engineer for the City of Brockton and in 1921 purchased the neighboring property from the estate of George and Ellen (Keene) Smith where he is listed as living through at least the 1940 U.S. Census. In 1935, Charlotte changed the deed to include Walter as a co-owner of the property.² In 1941, Walter transferred the property to his daughter, Emily E.

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 534, Page 410

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1687, Page 497

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Nice(b.1906).³ Emily had married Edwin Leroy Nice in 1931 and as of the 1940 U.S. Census was renting part of the family home while Edwin worked as a general laborer for the cranberry cannery. Emily lived in the house for the rest of her life. Her niece, Charlotte Clemons Bastek, daughter of Emily's sister Lucy Keene and David Clemons, inherited the property in 1973⁴ and continues to live in it today along with her husband, Mike Baskek.

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³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2137 Page 388

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3947 Page 550